



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

For Immediate Release

April 26, 2005

Contact Person

John W. Vaudreuil
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael G. Abear, DOB: 12/25/71, formerly of Winter, Wisconsin, but presently a Racine, Wisconsin resident, pleaded guilty today to possessing with intent to distribute one kilogram of cocaine. Abear faces a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for July 21, 2005, at 1:40 p.m.

The government's proof at the guilty plea hearing established that Abear had been dealing cocaine previously in the Sawyer County, Wisconsin area. One of his prior customers cooperated with law enforcement and arranged two meetings with Abear to purchase cocaine in Madison. During the second meeting, on February 16, 2005, Abear met this individual in a Madison hotel; the meeting was recorded and the cooperating individual displayed \$25,000 and Abear provided one kilogram of cocaine. At that point, law enforcement officers entered the room and arrested Abear.

Acting United States Attorney Sinnott stated that this indictment was the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department, the

Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Jefferson County Drug Task Force, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, and the Madison Police Department. Prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

#